

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) Device for protecting a container having a cylindrical side wall and rounded ends forming a dome, the device comprising:

a shell made of a puncture-resistant material, shaped to envelope at least the entirety of the dome of the container and comprising an annular projection disposed ~~completely out of alignment with the wall of the container and~~ in proximity to a connecting piece of the container, the shell delimiting a space between an interior face of the shell and an exterior face of the wall of the container,

wherein the shell includes a rounded zone that delimits a region of greatest volume in the space between the interior face of the shell and exterior face of the wall,

wherein the shell has, at an end corresponding to the side wall of the container, a first wall roughly parallel to an axis of the container and, at an end corresponding to a top of the dome of the container, a second wall perpendicular to the axis, the first and second walls meeting in the form of a rounded zone,

wherein the annular projection is formed on the dome wall; and

a compressible element capable of deadening a knock or impact, disposed in the space, wherein the shell is made of a synthetic resin.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 1, wherein the compressible element comprises an expanded synthetic material selected from the group consisting of polystyrene, a polyurethane and polyethylene foam.

4. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 1, wherein the device is shaped to cover not only the entirety of the dome of the container but also a portion of the side wall of the container that is adjacent to a base of the dome.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 1, wherein the connecting piece is situated at a top of the dome and the annular projection has a height such that the annular projection extends beyond a free end of the connecting piece when the device is placed on the dome.

7. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 1, wherein the device is mounted removably on the container.

8. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 6, wherein the connecting piece is threaded at the free end, and the device is shaped to surround the connecting piece in such a way that an exterior face of the shell is set back from the threaded free end of the connecting piece, the device further comprising a tapped ring which can be screwed onto the connecting piece and bear against the shell in order to mount the device on the dome.

9. (Currently Amended) Container comprising:
a tank including a cylindrical side wall and rounded ends forming a dome; and
a device including a shell made of a puncture-resistant material, shaped to envelope at least the entirety of the dome and comprising an annular projection disposed ~~completely out of alignment with the wall of the container and~~ in proximity to a connecting piece of the container, the shell delimiting a space between an interior face of the shell and an exterior face of the wall of the container, wherein the shell includes a rounded zone that delimits a region of greatest volume in the space between the interior face of the shell and exterior face of the wall, the device further including a compressible element disposed in the space and capable of deadening a knock or impact,

wherein the shell has, at an end corresponding to the side wall of the container, a first wall roughly parallel to an axis of the container and, at an end corresponding to a top of the dome of the container, a second wall perpendicular to the axis, the first and second walls meeting in the form of a rounded zone,

wherein the annular projection is formed on the dome wall,
wherein the shell is made of a synthetic resin.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) Container according to claim 9, wherein the compressible element comprises an expanded synthetic material selected from the group consisting of polystyrene, polyurethane and polyethylene foam.

12. (Previously Presented) Container according to claim 9, wherein the shell is shaped to cover not only the entirety of the dome but also a portion of the side wall that is adjacent to a base of the dome.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) Container according to claim 9, wherein the connecting piece is situated at a top of the dome and the annular projection has a height such that the annular projection extends beyond a free end of the connecting piece.

15. (Previously Presented) Container according to claim 14, wherein the device is mounted removably on the tank.

16. (Previously Presented) Container according to claim 14, wherein the connecting piece is threaded at the free end, and the device is shaped to surround the connecting piece in such a way that an exterior face of the shell is set back from the threaded free end of the connecting piece, the device further comprising a tapped ring which can be screwed onto the connecting piece and bear against the shell in order to allow mounting of the device on the dome.

17. (Previously Presented) Container according to claim 9, wherein the synthetic resin is a thermoplastic resin selected from the group consisting of acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene and polycarbonate.

18. (Previously Presented) Container according to claim 9, wherein the synthetic resin is a thermoplastic resin.

19. (Previously Presented) Container according to claim 18, wherein the thermoplastic resin is selected from the group consisting of acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene resin and polycarbonate resin.

20. (Previously Presented) Container according to claim 9, wherein the container is composed of a composite material intended to contain a fluid under pressure.